

one they fix themselves to any animal that comes in their way. We see, therefore, in them, though on a larger scale, some approximation to the locomotive and prehensile organs of some of the Cephalopods, and prior to them, of the Stelleridans and Echinidans,\* which likewise move and fix themselves by suckers. The mouth is situated in the cavity of the oral sucker, it is triangular, and armed with three sharp teeth disposed longitudinally in a triangle, two being lateral and one intermediate and higher up. These teeth are sharp enough to pierce not only the human skin, but even the hide of an ox, and have their edge armed with two rows of very minute teeth; at the bottom of the mouth is the organ of suction which imbibes the blood flowing from the wound made by the teeth. These animals inhabit fresh waters, in which they swim like eels, with a vermicular motion. In moving on a solid body, they first fix themselves by their *anal* sucker, which is larger than the *oral*, and then by means of their annular structure, extend themselves forwards, when they fix their mouth, detach their anal sucker, and thus fixing themselves alternately by each, proceed with considerable rapidity. They are hermaphrodites, and bring forth their young alive. When in their native waters, they suck any animal that comes in their way, even those with white blood, as the larvæ of insects, worms, and the like.

Herodotus relates that the crocodile, in consequence of its frequenting the water so much, has the inside of its mouth infested by leeches, which a little bird, named the

Fig. 53.



*Hirudo medicinalis*,  
medicinal leech.  
*a.* Anterior sucker.  
*b.* Posterior do.

\* See above, pp. 288, 206, 209.